



CALPEEK

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PART 15: POLLS SHOW S.F. STADIUM PLAN IS STILL IN TROUBLE, BUT YES SIDE HAS A HUGE WARCHEST

Editor's note: This week in Part XV of our continuing series on *public funding of sports facilities* we'll take a last look at Measures D & F on S.F.'s June 3rd ballot. And we'll partly answer this question: can a rag-tag bunch of folks without much money overcome a multi-million dollar effort to win the NFL's 49ers a new football stadium? Here's our update & analysis...

...Most of the **recent polls** (taken two weeks ago) still show D & F coming up short. The *S.F. Chronicle* (600 registered voters, May 16-18 by Mark Baldassare) showed YES at **38%**, NO at **47%** and undecided at **15%**. Among likely voters, it's **34% YES** vs. **51% NO**. The *S.F. Examiner* (404 registered voters, May 20-21) showed **32% YES** vs. **55% NO**. A poll for KCBS Radio/KPIX TV showed **36% YES**, **43% NO** and **18% undecided**. **Key point:** none of these surveys shows YES at 40% or above...

...The **ONLY** poll which showed the YES side at 40% or more was taken by pollster David Binder during this same time frame. It was dead even at 42% each. Data from most these polls also showed one other interesting thing: there's a large gender gap, with women voters **opposed** to D/F. Why are women opposed? Sources say it's a priority thing. In other words, why should the city put up \$100 million in revenue bonds to build this \$525 million stadium and shopping mall complex, when the money should be spent on more critical civic needs, such as police and health care? Regardless...

...Some **Calpeek** sources in S.F. are hedging their bets on D/F because of all the money that the YES side will spend. And get this: sources say that YES on D/F will pump in upwards of \$250,000 on a massive June 3rd GOTV effort. Sources have said almost from the beginning that the only way for YES on D/F to win was

to increase the size of the turnout. Overall, the YES side could spend more than \$2 million...

...FYI: some of these sources feel that the YES side would have been a solid favorite to win had it not been for the highly publicized and negative news about YES on D/F consultant Jack Davis and his X-rated birthday party. This really hurt the YES side. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: FIELD POLL ON GOVERNOR'S RACE.

Editor's note: Pollster Mervin Field's latest poll is fun to look at and speculate about --- but it really doesn't mean all that much until Demo U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein makes a decision on whether or not to run for governor in '98. Here's our spin...

...On the GOP side, AG Dan Lungren still doesn't have a serious contender from his own party. That's the good news. But this doesn't necessary mean that Lungren is totally safe. If the court rules against CA's Open Primary Law, and we're now talking about a closed GOP primary, according to Field's numbers, Lungren right now gets only **53%** among GOP voters, with **47% undecided**. With no one else around on the GOP side, these numbers might be an indication that Lungren's *base* is not all that solid...

...On the Democratic side, in a closed primary situation, here's the way Field shows it: Feinstein 45%, former White House COS Leon Panetta 17%, Lt. Gov. Gray Davis 13%, Controller Kathleen Connell 8%, businessman Al Checchi 1% and undecided 15%. This part of the poll is flawed because Panetta has said he won't run if DiFi runs. And sources in Sacto are telling us that it looks more and more like Connell will seek reelection or go for another Statewide office, other than governor. And like Panetta, she wouldn't run if DiFi decides to go for governor...

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...If DiFi is OUT, here's the way it looks: Panetta 27%, Davis 23%, Connell 14% and Checchi 3% --- with undecided at 33%...

...In the Lungren(R) vs. Demo match-ups, here's the way the Field Poll looks:

Lungren 43%	Checchi 19%	Und. 38%
Lungren 40%	Connell 32%	Und. 28%
Lungren 40%	Panetta 36%	Und. 24%
Lungren 37%	Davis 40%	Und. 23%
Lungren 41%	Feinstein 47%	Und. 12%

...While some political pundits are saying that these new Field numbers means that Demos had better pray for DiFi to say YES, other sources think it's still way too soon to draw that conclusion. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: WILL BONO RUN FOR SENATE??

Editor's note: The latest batch of surveys from pollster Mervin Field have been released and the one focusing on next year's U.S. Senate race provides some very interesting news. Here is Calpeek's analysis...

...There's both good news & bad news in the latest Field Poll for incumbent Barbara Boxer(D). The **bad news** is that when matched against the current field of GOP challengers, Boxer isn't near that magic 50% mark which pollsters keep saying is a measurement of vulnerability. Anything less than 50% means trouble. For example, a February survey in the S.F. Examiner put Boxer's reelect number at 44%. The **good news** for Boxer is that the election is still a long ways off and this early polling means much more to the Republican challengers as they jockey for position...

...In an Open Primary situation, which will be new to Calif. voters next year, here's how the Field Poll ranks all the contenders: Boxer(D) **34%**, U.S. Rep. Sonny Bono(R) **17%**, CA Treasurer Matt Fong(R) **14%**, San Diego Mayor Susan Golding(R) **7%**; millionaire businessman Darrell Issa(R) **1%** and undecided **27%**...

...In the one-on-one (general election) matches with Boxer, here's the way the Field Poll showed it:

Boxer 43%	Fong 37%	Und. 19%
Boxer 44%	Golding 33%	Und. 23%
Boxer 46%	Issa 25%	Und. 28%
Boxer 46%	Bono 36%	Und. 18%

...Fong was trying to spin this new data as a victory for him over his 3 rivals, but in looking over various stories on the internet, it's apparent that most political reporters were focused on Bono, even though he's not made any firm decision about running. Here's why...

...Of all GOPers in this open primary field, several sources think Bono is perhaps the best positioned to finish first: 1) Name ID - Bono is at 56% vs. 51% for Fong and 23% for Golding. Issa is a total unknown at this point. But some sources think Bono's ID is much higher - and remember, his old tv show, Sonny & Cher, is being re-run on cable tv right now. Back in 1992, when Bono had just announced for the U.S. Senate, a Linda DiVall poll showed him with **92%** name ID among GOP voters; 2) Unlike '92, when he had a tough time raising funds, today Bono is one of the top fund-raisers for GOP candidates & causes; 3) Bono has positioned himself as a mainstream conservative, but considers himself to be Pro-Choice (with qualifications); 4) Sonny has come a long way since '92 and doesn't need 3x5 cards to answer complex public policy questions; and 5) If he runs, and it looks as though he might, he'll have the support of well known conservatives, such as Bruce Herschensohn, who is urging Bono to run. Does Bono have any weak spots? Depends on how one looks at it, but he was opposed to Prop. 13 in 1978. Stay tuned...

SPRING '97 ELECTIONS: CITY & COUNTY CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here is part XIV of Calpeek's continuing coverage of city & county spring elections...

☒ **L.A. City Runoffs** - A very low turnout is expected in the L.A. City runoff election June 3rd. Only one council job is on the line -- the Open 11th District, but there are 7 runoffs for L.A. City's new Charter Reform Commission...

...In the 11th District, city hall insiders say they have detected the momentum moving toward Georgia Mercer in her battle with Cindy Miscikowski to replace Marvin Braude. In the primary, Mercer finished first and surprised many with her aggressive campaign. She carried 124 of 192 precincts. While the news media watches the endorsement game (Miscikowski has the L.A. Times vs. Mercer with the Daily News), the real battle is being waged on the ground. And here sources give an edge to Mercer. Sources think turnout in the

11th could go as high as 30%...

...It's really a guessing game as to which candidates will win the charter commission posts, but *independent expenditure* campaigns are plugging away. The only candidate who seems like a **sure bet** is Rob Glushon in the 11th CD. **Most interesting** battle for charter reform commission: Woody Fleming vs. attorney Ricardo Torres in the 9th CD...

☒ **S.F. Zoo Measure Very Close - Measure C** on S.F.'s June 3rd ballot to help renovate the S.F. Zoo with \$48 million in G.O. bonds (+ \$25 million raised privately) is real close to passing, according to the latest S.F. Chronicle poll. The measure needs a 2/3rds vote and the poll shows **66% Yes vs. 23% No**. So it's nervous time for YES on C consultant John Whitehurst. The Chronicle & Examiner are YES on C, but there's opposition from Sen. Quentin Kopp and County Sup. Leland Yee. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '98: A FIRST LOOK AT U.S. HOUSE RACES

Editor's note: This week **Calpeek** will take a first look at U.S. House races for 1998. In this first part of a two part series, we'll look at races in *Northern Calif.* Here's our update & analysis...

☒ **1st CD** - U.S. Rep. Frank Riggs(R-Windsor) might be the DCCC's top target in '98. He survived a tough battle in '96 against Demo Michela Alioto, who received 44.1% vs. 49.0% for Riggs. While Alioto would like a rematch in '98, the push has already begun for State Sen. Mike Thompson. Thompson is racking up endorsements and Demo sources think he's better positioned to defeat Riggs in this Demo leaning CD. As noted in **Calpeek** last week, the Demo primary is also a battle between VP Al Gore (Alioto used to work for Gore) and Demo House Leader Richard Gephardt, who is backing Thompson...

☒ **3rd CD** - Incumbent Vic Fazio(D-Sacto) was the early NRCC/CRP target in a "Kick Vic Out" campaign, which never really took hold. On Nov. 6th, Fazio destroyed GOP challenger Tim LeFever by more than 26,000 votes --- 53.6% vs. 41.1%. But the 3rd CD has only a 45.45% Demo registration, meaning Fazio will undoubtedly be under attack again in '98. Nothing firm to report just yet, but sources think that GOP Assemblywoman Barbara Alby of Sacramento may be

looking at the 3rd. She's the author of Megan's Law in Calif. and got a key HMO reform bill signed by Gov. Wilson. She's been riding herd on Fazio to make sure there are no more military base closings in the district. A Fazio vs. Alby contest would be very interesting...

☒ **10th CD** - While Fazio's district has poor numbers for a Demo, this district is even worse: 41.25% Demo vs. 42.92% Republican. Yet freshman Demo U.S. Rep. Ellen Tauscher --- sometimes described as the *Jane Harman of Northern Calif.* --- seems to be doing everything right. She's voting her district, getting loads of good press and has joined Demo Gary Condit as a *Blue Dog Democrat*. (FYI: 36th CD Demo Jane Harman followed Tauscher's lead and also joined the *Blue Dogs*). Right now the GOP is out searching for a candidate. In February there was a rumor that popular 49ers tight end Brett Jones was being "recruited," but these rumors have died down. A rematch with GOPer Bill Baker doesn't seem likely...

...FYI: Regarding U.S. Rep. Sonny Bono in the 44th CD. If he does give up this safe seat to run for the U.S. Senate, a leading contender for the 44th CD would be GOP Assemblyman Jim Battin of Palm Desert. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

June 13-15	Assoc. of State Demo chairs summer meeting, Whitefish, MT.
June 19-20	Sessions on Public Land Reform & Western Water Policy, sponsored by Council of State Govts - West. Park City, Utah.
June 20-22	G-7 Summit, Denver, CO.
June 22	DCCC Dinner in San Francisco.
July 26-28	50th Annual CA Broadcasters Assn. convention, Monterey, CA.
July 27	DCCC Dinner in L.A. w/Pres. Bill Clinton.
July 22-30	Nat'l Governor's Assn. meeting, Las Vegas.
Aug. 2-Sept. 2	Congressional recess.
Aug. 6-10	Nat'l Conf. of State Legislatures annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
Aug. 21-23	Regional Political Leadership Summit, sponsored by the Council of State Govts. - West. San Francisco.
Sept. 12	CA Legislative session ends.
Nov. 16-19	IAPC Annual Conf., Buenos Aires.
Dec. 3-5	Sessions on Tourism & Future of Western Legislatures. Sponsored by Council of State Govts. - West. Kohala Coast, Hawaii.
Dec. 5-9	Council of State Govts. annual meeting, Honolulu.

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CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***S.F. Examiner Vs. Tony Miller*** - The May 19th expose by SFE staffer Lance Williams on Tony Miller's failure to pay \$170,000(+ \$20,000 interest) to American Data Management for printing bills run up by Miller in his unsuccessful '94 campaign for CA Sec. of State was followed up May 20th with an editorial titled *Took the Money and Ran*. It's a very damaging indictment of Miller, who co-authored Prop. 208 - the campaign reform law. The editorial suggests that before Miller runs for SOS again in 1998, he first ought to pay off his debt. The most damaging line in the editorial reads: *A deadbeat is a deadbeat...*

■ **NBC/WSJ Presidential Poll** - Just in case you're curious and haven't seen the latest *Campaign 2000* presidential poll, here's the way things stack up. On the Demo side, the top 5 contenders are: Al Gore at 56%, Bill Bradley at 9%, Jesse Jackson at 8%, Richard Gephardt 6% and Bob Kerrey 4%. On the GOP side, here are the top 5: Texas Gov. George Bush Jr. 24%, Jack Kemp 17%, Elizabeth Dole 16%, Dan Quayle 9% and Steve Forbes 8%. April 26-28 among 1,009 adults nationwide (source: *The Polling Report*)...

■ ***Breaking Up L.A. County*** - While much attention has been focused on legislation to allow the San Fernando Valley to break away from L.A. City, AB 303 by George Runner(R-Lancaster) has passed the Assembly on a 60-8 vote. This bill would allow the break-up of L.A. County. AB 303 would create the L.A. County Division Authority, which would evaluate the potential impact of such a break-up...

■ **SCALE Wooing Katz** - In a rather unusual move, the So. Calif. Alliance of Law Enforcement(SCALE) has written a letter to former Assemblyman Richard Katz(D-Sherman Oaks) telling him that their organization has voted to recruit him to run for the 20th SD in

'98. It's the first time SCALE has voted to actively recruit a candidate for office. SCALE represents more than 30,000 peace officers. Want a sure bet? Bet your first born that Katz will run for the 20th SD - and win...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- A sad note: former L.A. City planning director Calvin Hamilton, 72, died in San Diego May 27th of Alzheimer's Disease...
- Sentenced to prison: former Compton Councilwoman Patricia Moore, caught on videotape taking a bribe, gets 33 month in the federal slammer...
- Former San Diego area Assemblyman Tom Connolly(D) was found guilty May 12 of having sex with a minor in 1995...
- Charles F. Makinney has been named City Mgr. in West Hollywood. He is the 2nd CM since the city incorporated in '84 and is one of the few openly gay chief municipal officers in the U.S...

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